

Remarks

Claims 3-8 and 13-24 are pending herein. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 9-12 have been canceled; claims 3, 4 and 8 have been amended; and new claims 13-24 have been added. The requisite fee associated with the addition of three further independent claims is provided herewith.

Claims 3, 4 and 8 have each been amended so that they are now independent claims.

Support for new claim 13 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 23, lines 2-13, and page 34, lines 3-11.

Support for new claim 14 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 4, lines 27-31.

Support for new claim 15 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 6-14.

Support for new claim 16 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, line 31 through page 6, line 4.

Support for new claim 17 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 20-25.

Support for new claim 18 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 6, line 26 through page 7, line 1.

Support for new claim 19 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 2-9.

Support for new claim 20 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 19-25.

Support for new claim 21 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 15-26; page 23, lines 14-22; and page 34, lines 24-27.

Support for new claim 22 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 8, line 27 through page 9, line 8 and page 23, lines 2-13.

Support for new claim 23 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 9-16.

Support for new claim 24 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 17-22.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-308894 to Yaskawa Electric Corp. (“Yaskawa”) in view of JP 2723764 to Hitachi, Ltd. (“Hitachi”), U.S. Patent No. 4,862,142 to Knight (“Knight”), U.S. Patent No. 5,426,355 to Zweighaft (“Zweighaft”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,929,578 to Atarashi (“Atarashi”); and claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yaskawa, Hitachi, Knight, Zweighaft, and Atarashi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,673,194 to Cipelletti et al. (“Cipelletti”). Claims 3-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objection set forth in the Office Action.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 10-12

Claims 1, 2 and 10-12 are rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yaskawa in view of Hitachi, Knight, Zweighaft and Atarashi.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 9-12 have been canceled, and claims 3, 4 and 8 have been amended so that they are now in independent and allowable form. Claims 5-7 depend upon amended claim 4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-8 are in allowable form, and that the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 10-12 is now moot.

II. Rejection of Claim 9

Claim 9 is rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yaskawa, Hitachi, Knight, Zweighaft, and Atarashi and further in view of Cipelletti.

Claim 9 has been canceled, and its rejection is moot.

III. New Claims 13-24

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 13-24 are patentable over Yaskawa, Hitachi, Knight, Zweighaft, Atarashi and Cipelletti.

New claims 13, 21 and 22 are independent. Claims 14-16 and 20 depend upon claim 13, claims 17-19 depend upon claim 16, and claims 23 and 24 depend upon claim 22.

Claims 13, 21 and 22 each recite the following features:

- (1) advance memorization of power-recovery information including a voltage drop and a period thereof under an instantaneous blackout recoverable within a predetermined period, and rotation-control pattern information of the motor corresponding to the power-recovery information; and
- (2) comparison of the voltage-drop information and the power-recovery information to determine whether an instantaneous blackout recoverable within a predetermined period has occurred, and control over the rotation of the motor on the basis of the rotation-control pattern information of the motor corresponding to the power-recovery information, when an instantaneous blackout has occurred.

Because of the two above-recited features, increase in the driving period and reduction in the throughput can be prevented, even when an instantaneous blackout (recoverable within a predetermined period) has occurred. In addition, it is possible to avoid damage to wafers caused by vibration, even when such an instantaneous blackout has occurred.

The references cited in the Office Action do not teach the two features recited above. For example, Yaskawa discloses that the motor is controlled on the basis of the detected DC voltages, but does not teach that voltage-drop information and the power-recovery information are compared to determine whether an instantaneous blackout, recoverable within a predetermined, period has occurred.

Although the Office Action cites Knight for teaching remembering data concerning a voltage drop and a period thereunder under an instantaneous blackout, Applicants respectfully submit that Knight does not discuss an instantaneous blackout recoverable within a predetermined period or how to account for such. Thus, Knight does not teach or suggest the two features discussed above.

Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 13-24 are patentable over the references cited in the Office Action.

IV. Objection to Claims 3-8

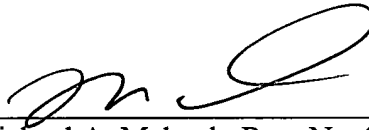
Claims 3-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As stated previously, claims 1, 2 and 9-12 have been canceled, and claims 3, 4 and 8 have been amended so that they are now in independent and allowable form. Claims 5-7 depend upon amended claim 4. Thus, claims 3-8 are in allowable form.

V. Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the objection and rejections be withdrawn, and that claims 3-8 and 13-24 be allowed.

If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033082.246.

Respectfully submitted,
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